

*Phaseolus*, the common bean, were formed; and the supposed impossibility of fertilization by its own pollen, the paragraph concludes as follows: "The *machinery* tells its own story plainly. The confirmation is familiar to all who know beans and their facility of mixing when different varieties are grown together." Mr. M. said he claimed to "know beans" for thirty years past; and had grown large numbers of varieties side by side, saving seed from them and re-sowing, and had never known a single case of admixture from this close proximity. The various kinds of both Beans and Peas in cultivation were in all cases evolutions, or, as would be commonly said, "sports or accidents," or were the results of actual manipulations by skilful seed raisers. He had no hesitation in saying that his friend was utterly wrong in his impression of the facts; that he did not "know beans;" and the fact that beans would not mix, though so close together, and so freely visited by bees, was an excellent argument against instead of for the generally received theories of insect cross fertilization.

*Fruit of Akebia quinata*.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited a fruit from a plant grown by Mr. W. Canby, of Wilmington, Del., who had three fruits from two old plants, and they were the first fruits he had heard of, after twenty years of extensive cultivation in America. In China and Japan, where it is a native, it is regarded as an edible fruit, and, inferring from its having a vernacular name, *Fugi-Kadsura-Akebi*, the fruit is probably common there. Attempts had been made to induce fruitfulness here by cross fertilization, but they had failed. It was not, therefore, a question of fertilization, but one of nutrition. The fruit is as large and of the appearance of a papaw (*Asimina triloba*), but opens on one side as in a follicle of *Asclepias*, disclosing the long column of parietal seeds. Mr. M. pointed out by it the difference between the Lardizabillaceous and Menispermaceous orders.

*Note on Phallus fœtidus*.—Mr. MEEHAN exhibited specimens of what he supposed to be a variety of this fungus. It was very rare with him, the last time it had appeared on his grounds was seven years ago. Its brilliant scarlet color and strong fetid odor would have attracted attention had it been in existence during that time. It was doubtful if any existed in the vicinity, and it was an interesting question whether the spores or mycelium had been in the ground all that while, or whether it had been recently brought as a spore in the atmosphere. But the main point he wished to draw attention to was the attraction the fetid plant had for meat flies. They abounded on the plants. The common toad plant of green-houses (*Stapelia variegata*) attracted these in the same way, and it was said to be a scheme to aid the plant in cross fertilization, the stench attracting the flies, and inducing them to deposit eggs under the impression it was rotten meat; though what benefit it